

Recommendation 1

The Archdiocese should set up a formal review of safeguarding files, with a view to standardising the structure, addressing gaps in the record, cross-referencing safeguarding and canonical information and ensuring that all files have summaries and time lines.

Progress to Date

A review of Diocesan safeguarding files is on-going. The structure of the Diocesan safeguarding files has been reviewed and standardised in accordance with the file structure laid down by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland. Work is continuing to address gaps in records where this is possible and to cross-reference canonical information and to have canonical information relating to each safeguarding file placed in a separate file within the safeguarding fire-proof safe, adjacent to the safeguarding file to which it refers. Work will continue throughout the year to compile file summaries and time lines which will also be included in individual safeguarding files.

Recommendation 2

The Archdiocese should develop an information protocol with the religious orders to ensure that it is informed whenever an allegation is made or in the event of a priest or other religious being removed from ministry. Information exchange must be based on the principle of the paramountcy of the child. This initiative should be undertaken in consultation with the NBSCCCI.

Progress to Date

Cardinal Brady wrote to Superior/Provincials of each Religious Order that has a house within the confines of the Archdiocese of Armagh on 25 March 2014 inviting them to nominate a representative to meet with the Armagh Diocesan Director of Safeguarding to discuss development of a safeguarding protocol. A reminder letter was issued to Religious Orders on 4 June 2014.

The Armagh Diocesan Director of Safeguarding met with safeguarding representatives of those respective Religious Orders on 30 June 2014. Following that meeting, it was agreed that the Archdiocese should develop a draft protocol for sharing relevant safeguarding information whenever an allegation is made or in the event of a priest or other religious being removed from ministry.

Development of a first draft of this protocol is underway. When completed, the draft protocol will be referred to the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland and the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee for comment and ratification. When the protocol has been agreed by the National Board and at Diocesan level, it will be issued to

each Religious Order that has a house within the confines of the Archdiocese of Armagh for comment/ratification and implementation.

Recommendation 3

The Archdiocese should design a programme and invite children and young people to become more actively involved in safeguarding awareness, including the design of complaints, referral and communications material for children and young people.

Progress to Date

Discussions regarding implementation of this recommendation are ongoing by the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee and work is underway to collate relevant child-friendly information which has already been developed by other Dioceses/agencies/organisations. The Diocesan Safeguarding Committee intend to invite young people from the Diocesan Youth Commission and relevant others from the youth sector to discuss safeguarding awareness raising, including the design of material which is focussed more directly on children and young people.

Recommendation 4

The Safeguarding Committee should co-ordinate training activity and practice within a formal training needs analysis and Training Plan and ensure that an evaluation of the cascade approach takes place.

Progress to Date

Discussions regarding progress of this recommendation are ongoing by the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee and work is underway with the Diocesan Training Co-ordinator to establish training needs of the various Diocesan staff/volunteers and clergy, including those with specific safeguarding responsibilities. This will be formulated within a Diocesan Training Needs Analysis and training plan.

Part of this work will include an evaluation of the success of the cascade system of delivering safeguarding awareness training using volunteer Information Facilitators under the guidance of the Diocesan Training Co-ordinator.

Recommendation 5

The Archdiocese should start a process of developing a written policy for victim outreach and support. This should be taken forward in consultation with the NBSCCCI to ensure that learning and good practice can be shared nationally.

Progress to Date

A written policy entitled “Responding to the Needs of Victims/Survivors” has been developed by the Archdiocese and agreed with the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland. This policy sets out how the Archdiocese of Armagh will respond to the needs of victims/survivors and includes reference to gathering of information, provision of support and reports of abuse. The policy was issued to Diocesan clergy and Parish Safeguarding Representatives on 22 May 2014 and has also been placed on the Armagh Diocesan website.

Recommendation 6

The Cardinal should convene a safeguarding workshop in the Archdiocese and lead on a three year strategic safeguarding plan.

Progress to Date

Detailed discussions have taken place within the Archdiocese and with the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee and Diocesan Advisory Panel to establish strategic objectives for the period 2014 to 2016. These have been set out in the Diocesan “Strategic Safeguarding Plan” which was agreed with the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland on 16 July 2014. The Strategic Plan was issued to all Diocesan clergy and Parish Safeguarding Representatives on 22 July 2014 and has been placed on the Armagh Diocesan website.